

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 531

October 27, 1995, 2:29 p.m.
Page S-16009 Temp. Record

BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION/\$89 Billion Medicare Bankruptcy Plan

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1357. Exon motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Lieberman motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions.

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 47-52

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1357, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995, will result in a balanced budget in seven years, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The bill will also provide a \$245 billion middle-class tax cut, \$141.4 billion of which will be to provide a \$500 per child tax credit.

The Lieberman motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance would instruct the Committee to report the bill back within 3 session days with "the following amendment" on Medicare and sufficient reductions in the tax relief measures to maintain deficit neutrality. (No amendment was submitted with the motion, though the debate indicated that the intent was to offer an amendment that slowed the rate of growth in Medicare spending by only \$89 billion.)

The motion was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of debate was permitted on the amendment. Following debate, Senator Domenici raised a point of order that the motion was not germane under the Budget Act. Senator Exon then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the motion to commit. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive favored the motion to commit; those opposing the motion to waive opposed the motion to commit.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote of the Senate is required to waive the Budget Act. Following the vote, the point of order was sustained, and the motion thus fell.

Those favoring the motion to waive contended:

Our Republican colleagues are right about the need to reform Medicare. In the short-term it will go broke by 2002, and even if the short-term problem is solved, it faces long-term structural problems because of its unsustainable growth rate and because of demographic changes that will decrease the worker-to-retiree ratio. Our Republican colleagues' proposals in this bill, though, will

(See other side)

YEAS (47)			NAYS (52)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans (52 or 98%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Specter	Akaka	Inouye	Abraham	Helms	EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE: 1—Official Buisiness 2—Necessarily Absent 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Announced Yea AN—Announced Nay PY—Paired Yea PN—Paired Nay	
	Baucus	Johnston	Ashcroft	Hutchison		
	Biden	Kennedy	Bennett	Inhofe		
	Bingaman	Kerrey	Bond	Jeffords		
	Boxer	Kerry	Brown	Kassebaum		
	Bradley	Kohl	Burns	Kempthorne		
	Breaux	Lautenberg	Campbell	Kyl		
	Bryan	Leahy	Chafee	Lott		
	Bumpers	Levin	Coats	Lugar		
	Byrd	Lieberman	Cochran	Mack		
	Conrad	Mikulski	Cohen	McCain		
	Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Coverdell	McConnell		
	Dodd	Moynihan	Craig	Murkowski		
	Dorgan	Murray	D'Amato	Nickles		
	Exon	Nunn	DeWine	Pressler		
	Feingold	Pell	Dole	Roth		
	Feinstein	Pryor	Domenici	Santorum		
	Ford	Reid	Faircloth	Shelby		
	Glenn	Robb	Frist	Simpson		
	Graham	Rockefeller	Gorton	Smith		
	Harkin	Sarbanes	Gramm	Snowe		
	Heflin	Simon	Grams	Stevens		
	Hollings	Wellstone	Grassley	Thomas		
			Gregg	Thompson		
			Hatch	Thurmond		
			Hatfield	Warner		

not solve Medicare's problems. Basically, the main effect of their proposals will be to limit benefits, and the main purpose for limiting benefits will be to milk the program for savings in order to balance the budget. We think the Democrats' proposal to pass short-term measures in order to take care of the program for at least the next 10 years, in order to give Republicans and Democrats time to work out true long-term solutions, is far preferable. We therefore support the Lieberman motion.

No arguments were expressed against the motion to waive.